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CENTRAL FAX CENTERAmendment C
U.S. appl. no. 10/579,954

SEP 21 2009

Atty. ref. P03096US2A
Page 2 of 7**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

- 1 (*previously presented*). A method of making an amine-functionalized polymer, comprising:
- a) in a reaction medium, reacting a living polymer with a cyclic compound comprising at least one siloxane unit in its ring structure so as to provide an intermediate functionalized living polymer; and
 - b) introducing into said reaction medium an amine comprising an active hydrogen atom attached to the amino nitrogen atom of said amine and allowing said amine to chemically bond to said intermediate functionalized living polymer,
- thereby providing said amine-functionalized polymer.
- 2 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 1 wherein said cyclic compound comprises at least three siloxane units in its ring structure.
- 3 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 2 wherein said ring structure of said cyclic compound consists of silicon and oxygen atoms.
- 4-20 (*canceled*).
- 21 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 2 wherein at least one of the silicon atoms of said cyclic compound comprises at least one C₁-C₆ substituent.
- 22 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 2 wherein each of the silicon atoms of said cyclic compound comprises at least one C₁-C₆ substituent.
- 23 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 22 wherein said cyclic compound is hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane or octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane.

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24 (*currently amended*). The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of ~~providing said living polymer via anionic solution polymerization~~ anionically initiating the polymerization of monomers that comprise at least one type of polyene so as to provide said living polymer.

25 (*currently amended*). The method of claim [[24]] ~~36~~ wherein ~~said polymer is a substantially random interpolymer comprising vinyl aromatic and polyene mer units~~ resulting from said at least one type of vinyl aromatic compound and said at least one type of polyene are randomly incorporated.

26-35 (*canceled*).

36 (*new*). The method of claim 24 wherein said monomers further comprise at least one type of vinyl aromatic compound.

37 (*new*). The method of claim 24 wherein said at least one type of polyene comprises a conjugated diene.

38 (*new*). The method of claim 24 wherein said living polymer has an overall 1,2-micro-structure of from about 25 to 65%.

39 (*new*). The method of claim 1 wherein said reaction medium further comprises a polar coordinating compound.

40 (*new*). A method of making an amine-functionalized polymer, comprising:
a) in a reaction medium comprising an organic solvent, reacting a living polymer with a cyclic compound comprising at least one siloxane unit in its ring structure so as to provide an intermediate functionalized living polymer; and
b) introducing into said reaction medium an amine comprising an active hydrogen atom attached to the amino nitrogen atom of said amine and allowing said amine to chemically bond to said intermediate functionalized living polymer, thereby providing said amine-functionalized polymer.

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- 41 (*new*). The method of claim 40 wherein said cyclic compound comprises at least three siloxane units in its ring structure.
- 42 (*new*). The method of claim 41 wherein said ring structure of said cyclic compound consists of silicon and oxygen atoms.
- 43 (*new*). The method of claim 41 wherein at least one of the silicon atoms of said cyclic compound comprises at least one C₁-C₆ substituent.
- 44 (*new*). The method of claim 41 wherein each of the silicon atoms of said cyclic compound comprises at least one C₁-C₆ substituent.
- 45 (*new*). The method of claim 44 wherein said cyclic compound is hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane or octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane.
- 46 (*new*). The method of claim 40 wherein said living polymer has an overall 1,2-micro-structure of from about 25 to 65%.
- 47 (*new*). The method of claim 40 wherein said reaction medium further comprises a polar coordinating compound.